

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03993 271550Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6177

UNCLAS VIENNA 03993

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, AU
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AUSTRIAN METALWORKERS TO U.S.

REF: ANDERSON-GOOT TELCON OF APRIL 27, 1978

1. AUSTRIAN METAL, MINING AND ENERGY UNION HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION (IMF), GENEVA, IS ARRANGING TRIP TO UNITED STATES MAY 4-13 FOR GROUP OF TOP AUSTRIAN METALWORKERS. STOPS ARE APPARENTLY PLANNED IN SEATTLE (BOEING VISIT), SAN FRANCISCO, LAS VEGAS/GRAND CANYON, DETROIT (AUTO COMPANY VISIT), PITTSBURG, WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK; HOWEVER, IMF GENEVA IS STILL WORKING ON DETAILS AND HAS NOT PROVIDED ITINERARY. AUSTRIANS INCLUDE METAL UNION PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS SOCIALIST FACTION CHAIRMAN AND MP KARL SEKANINA (1970 IVP GRANTEE), METAL UNION'S CENTRAL SECRETARY AND MP JOSEF WILLE, RANSHOFEN METAL WORKS FOREMAN AND MP FRANZ HELLWAGNER, DIRECTOR OF AUSTRIAN STATE HOLDING COMPANY (OEIAG) WALTER BRAUNEIS, AND METAL UNION'S SECRETARY RUDOLF NUERNBERGER.

2. METAL UNION OFFICIALS SEEMED SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT PLANS FOR GROUP'S TRIP WERE NOT FIRING UP AS RAPIDLY AS EXPECTED BUT THEY DID NOT ASK FOR EMBASSY'S HELP. EMBASSY DID NOT OFFER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BECAUSE IT
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DID NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN ADMIRABLE PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND COULD DO LITTLE WITH LOCUS OF PLANNING IN GENEVA. EMBASSY DOES, OF COURSE, WISH TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF VISIT, BOTH BECAUSE SEKANINA MAY SUCCEED ANTON BENYA AS PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION AND BECAUSE SUCCESS OF THIS PRIVATE VISIT COULD STIMULATE OTHERS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ENSURE

THAT AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENTS
OF AMERICAN STEEL, AUTO/AEROSPACE, AND MACHINIST UNIONS
ARE APPRISED OF IMPENDING VISIT AND COOPERATE WITH THEM
AND IMF, AS APPROPRIATE, IN ARRANGING SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.
(PROGRAM MIGHT INCLUDE CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS SINCE
THREE OF VISITORS ARE MP'S.) EXTENDING FACILITATIVE
ASSISTANCE THROUGH US MISSION GENEVA IS FURTHER
POSSIBILITY. BORG

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Message Attributes

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